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Missouri's Unemployment Rate Held Steady in August, Employment Grew Slightly

Missouri labor market conditions were relatively unchanged in August. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 5.6 percent, while non-farm payrolls grew slightly according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also remained essentially unchanged, decreasing by only one-tenth of a percent to 6.1 percent, however, total non-farm payroll decreased by 93,000 jobs in August.

Missouri's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate has held steady over the last three months at 5.8 percent. At the national level, the unemployment rate has continued to fall over the last three months to 6.0 percent in August.

The estimated number of employed Missourians was 2,812,000, while unemployment was 167,000, both virtually the same as in July.

The following Missouri counties reported the lowest unemployment rates: Nodaway at 2.1 percent and Boone at 2.4 percent. Missouri cities and counties reporting double-digit unemployment rates were Hickory County at 10.1 percent; Wayne County at 10.2 percent, Reynolds County at 10.4 percent, St. Louis City and New Madrid County each at 11.0 percent; Pemiscot at 11.3 percent and Linn at 12.1 percent.

The number of non-farm payroll jobs increased by 4,400 on a seasonally adjusted basis between July and August. Construction; trade, transportation, and utilities; educational and health services; and government all experienced increases of more than 1,000 jobs. On balance, these more than offset the decreases that occurred in other industry groups, including manufacturing (-400), information (-500), financial activities (-1,100), leisure and hospitality (-600), and "other services" (-1,500).

Over the past year, employment has decreased by 31,200 jobs, or 1.2 percent. (These data are not seasonally adjusted, to allow more detailed industry comparisons.) In private industries other than manufacturing, the decrease has been somewhat smaller: 17,500 or 0.9 percent. Although most industries report fewer jobs now than a year ago, there are some industries that have experienced growth.

Since August 2002, employment in private educational services increased by 5,300; construction added 2,400; food manufacturing increased by 1,900, wholesale trade, particularly electronics and nondurable goods each added 1,500; accounting and related services added 1,600; health care and social assistance increased by 2,900; amusement, gambling and recreation added 1,600; food services and drinking places is up by 2,600; and religious, grant-making, civic and professional organizations added 2,400 jobs.

MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (AUGUST 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JUNE AND JULY 2003), AND YEAR AGO (AUGUST 2002)

	AUG 2003	JUL 2003	JUN 2003	AUG 2002		AUG 2003	JUL 2003	JUN 2003	AUG 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	6.0	6.3	6.5	5.7	Atchison	3.8	4.6	3.8	3.7
MISSOURI	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.6	Audrain	6.3	6.5	6.1	5.5
ST. LOUIS MSA	6.1	6.2	6.3	5.9	Barton	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.0
Franklin	5.9	6.3	6.3	5.9	Bates	8.1	8.1	7.5	7.6
Jefferson	5.4	5.4	5.8	5.5	Benton	7.3	7.7	6.9	6.6
Lincoln	5.5	6.6	6.4	5.2	Caldwell	9.2	9.0	7.9	7.8
St. Charles	4.0	4.5	4.4	3.9	Carroll	5.3	5.8	5.3	6.4
St. Louis County	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.0	Cedar	7.8	8.3	7.7	6.5
Warren	5.9	6.8	6.7	4.9	Chariton	6.6	7.7	6.0	9.4
St. Louis City	11.0	10.5	10.6	10.6	Clark	8.0	10.3	6.4	6.9
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.9	Cooper	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0
Cass	5.5	5.4	5.5	4.7	Crawford	6.8	7.2	7.3	6.4
Clay	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.4	Dade	5.2	5.4	5.4	6.2
Clinton	5.8	5.7	5.1	6.2	Dallas	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.8
Jackson	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.1	Daviess	6.6	7.1	6.1	5.6
Lafayette	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.6	DeKalb	6.3	6.4	6.1	5.3
Platte	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.5	Dent	6.7	7.1	6.6	6.2
Ray	6.9	7.1	6.7	5.6	Douglas	8.8	8.0	7.7	10.8
SPRINGFIELD MSA	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.6	Dunklin	9.0	8.9	8.5	7.1
Christian	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.9	Gasconade	7.0	8.0	5.9	5.4
Greene	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.4	Gentry	4.3	3.8	3.2	4.1
Webster	4.1	4.5	4.4	5.7	Grundy	6.5	6.0	6.1	4.8
JOPLIN MSA	5.7	5.8	5.8	6.2	Harrison	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.7
Jasper	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.5	Henry	8.2	8.1	8.3	5.3
Newton	7.0	7.1	6.5	7.4	Hickory	10.1	11.7	9.9	8.1
COLUMBIA MSA	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	Holt	4.9	6.0	5.6	4.1
Boone	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	Howard	4.8	4.9	4.5	5.9
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.6	Iron	8.2	8.7	8.9	10.1
Andrew	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.6	Johnson	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.2
Buchanan	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.8	Knox	3.7	4.1	4.4	3.4
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	5.3	5.1	3.9	3.3	Laclede	9.7	10.3	10.7	5.7
Adair	5.0	4.8	3.7	3.0	Lewis	4.5	5.2	4.8	4.1
Schuyler	7.5	6.8	5.2	5.3	Linn	12.1	12.9	9.5	12.3
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.8	6.6	6.1	5.2	Livingston	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.3
Butler	5.4	5.9	5.4	4.8	McDonald	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5
Carter	4.9	7.7	7.0	5.4	Macon	5.4	6.4	5.2	6.3
Ripley	7.5	8.6	8.3	6.7	Madison	7.4	8.4	8.2	8.1
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.7	Mercer	4.7	4.9	5.6	4.2
Camden	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4	Monroe	7.4	8.8	7.1	6.9
Miller	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.3	Montgomery	6.6	7.7	6.7	5.3
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.4	Morgan	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.3
Bollinger	5.6	6.7	7.1	6.2	Nodaway	2.1	2.8	2.1	2.1
Cape Girardeau	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	Ozark	4.6	4.7	4.3	5.4
Mississippi	9.1	8.3	8.5	7.1	Pemiscot	11.3	11.8	11.9	9.4
New Madrid	11.0	11.5	11.0	8.8	Perry	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.3
Scott	6.6	6.0	5.9	6.0	Pettis	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.3	Pike	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.6
Callaway	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	Polk	4.8	6.3	5.9	4.8
Cole	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	Pulaski	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.6
Moniteau	3.3	3.3	3.4	4.9	Putnam	6.9	6.0	5.7	4.2
Osage	5.1	5.4	5.2	6.5	Randolph	6.1	8.5	5.8	6.9
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.9	5.8	6.2	5.3	Reynolds	10.4	10.3	9.1	8.0
Howell	6.4	5.9	6.2	5.5	St. Clair	8.1	8.3	8.2	6.9
Oregon	4.7	5.2	5.4	4.4	Ste. Genevieve	5.5	5.9	6.1	5.2
Shannon	5.1	6.3	6.6	5.7	Saline	6.1	5.8	5.7	6.5
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.9	Scotland	4.0	4.6	3.9	4.1
Barry	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	Shelby	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.8
Lawrence	4.7	5.2	5.2	5.1	Stoddard	6.7	7.2	6.6	5.7
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.8	6.9	5.8	5.7	Stone	6.4	6.0	6.4	5.8
Marion	5.8	7.0	6.1	5.5	Sullivan	8.4	9.1	9.6	3.6
Ralls	5.5	6.4	5.2	6.0	Taney	4.1	4.0	4.6	4.0
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.5	Texas	8.6	8.9	8.9	7.3
Maries	4.4	4.5	4.7	5.5	Vernon	5.6	5.3	5.2	6.3
Phelps	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.1	Wayne	10.2	10.9	11.2	11.3
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.9	8.9	8.4	7.9	Worth	3.7	5.9	6.3	3.8
St. Francois	7.6	8.5	7.8	7.7	Wright	8.0	7.7	7.7	9.4
Washington	8.6	9.9	9.7	8.4					

NOTE: Data for counties within MSAs/LMAs are disaggregated from MSA/LMA totals.

NOTE: Substate area data for 2002 have been revised but are provisional: not yet official and subject to change.

Produced by Missouri Department of Economic Development, MERIC, in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics